

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 INT-08 SCI-06

SCEM-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 STR-08 CEA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14

DRC-01 /187 W

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R 151547Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 596

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EFIN, PFOR, AU, LE, SA, KU, IR

SUBJECT: OPEC MEETINGS IN VIENNA, NOV 17-19

REF: A. KUWAIT 4028, B. VIENNA 9407

1. IN GET-ACQUAINTED CALL ON CYRUS SAMII, CHIEF OF
TECHNICAL DEPT, AT OPEC HQS HERE, EMBOFFS WERE TOLD
THAT THE SIX OIL MINISTERS OF THE PERSIAN GULF OIL-
PRODUCING STATES WOULD HOLD MEETINGS AMONG THEMSELVES
SAT, NOV 17, AS WELL AS WITH COMPANY OFFICIALS. HE
SAID THERE WOULD BE NO PRICE NEGOTIATIONS WITH COMPANY
REPS BUT INDICATED PRICING POLICIES WOULD BE DISCUSSED
DURING OIL MINISTERS' PRIVATE SESSIONS. HE PREDICTED
THAT ANY NEW PRICING DECISIONS WOULD BE REACHED IN CON-
CERT AMONG THE SIX AND NOT UNILATERALLY.

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2. AS DEPT AWARE, THESE MEETINGS PRECEDE OPEC'S REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE NOV 19 AT WHICH ALL OPEC MEMBERS WILL BE REPRESENTED.

3. COMMENTING ON AUSTRIA'S NOV 13 ACTION RAISING PRICE OF GASOLINE TO 5.6 SCHILLINGS PER LITER (REF B), SAMII NOTED THAT ONLY SMALL FRACTION THEREOF WOULD BE IN PAYMENT FOR CRUDE OIL. HE STRESSED WHAT HE CALLED THE "OPEC PHILOSOPHY" THAT LARGE OIL COMPANIES SHOULD BE REIMBURSED, WITH REASONABLE PROFIT, FOR THEIR SERVICES AND KNOW-HOW, BUT THAT ANY "WINDFALL PROFITS" SHOULD RIGHTFULLY GO TO THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

4. COMMENT: IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT IF OPEC SECRETARIAT HAS ANY ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF CONTENTS OF UPCOMING VIENNA DISCUSSIONS, SUCH INFORMATION IS BEING VERY CLOSELY HELD. HUMES

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